

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322
FEBRUARY 2, 2017 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 6:32 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following were present: Dawn Diamantopoulos, Julie Larson, Mario DeGeorge, Redevelopment Commissioner Bill Leep, Redevelopment Commission President Greg Kuzmar, Lola McKay, Phillip McKie, Lee Kause, Mary Wells, Doug Van Ramshorst and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Lance noted that the Town Council had not yet made any appointments for the 2017 HMS Bureau to date.

Minutes:

Minutes from the March 3, 2016, April 7, 2016, May 5, 2016, June 2, 2016, July 7, 2016, September 1, 2016, October 13, 2016, November 3, 2016, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017 meetings were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Town Theatre

Dawn reported that the project has been cancelled, per a vote by the Highland Town Council. A discussion ensued as to the reasons for the vote. It was reported that the Town Theatre Board would be meeting later in month to decide how they should proceed.

Explorer's Group

Dawn reported that there will be a meeting on February 13th and that she was going to ask the post to consider working with Main Street, in light of the Town Theatre vote. She said there were various projects that they might be interested in assisting with, and that the group could be a source of possible volunteers.

Highland Rookery

No report

Pop-Up Gallery

Dawn and Lance reported that Hoosier Highlander was contacted about a possible future pop-up gallery event. There was concern that the location did not provide adequate space for the event. Lance suggested holding off to see what was going to happen when First Midwest Bank relocated to Ridge Road. He said if the downtown site was going to be put on the market, it would be an excellent location for a pop-up gallery, which could feature the bank site and Hoosier Highlander.

Coupon Program

Lance asked Phillip McKie if he was still interested in working on this project. He said he was and he wanted to speak to former Main Street member Bridget De Young, who had started the program several years ago. Lance said he would speak to her and ask that she contact Phillip.

Car Cruise

Mario said that Thunder Road should be contacted for possible dates for the event. Lance said he had contacted them and was waiting for a response. Lance said that he wanted the process of soliciting sponsorships to begin as soon as possible.

Festival of the Trail

Lance reported that he would like to explore holding the 2017 event by closing off Jewett Street and having the festival there. He said Cecile asked him to develop a plan to present to the department heads and see if it could go forward. Lance also said he had a discussion with a representative of Girls on the Run, and there was a possibility that their organization might hold a “fun run” to kick off the event.

Façade Improvement Grant

Lance reported that there were no new applications filed or reimbursed since the January meeting.

Cash Mobs

No report.

Municipal Parking Lot

Lance said he and Cecile had contacted John Bach to see if the Public Works contractor could plant and maintain that area, if the Commission will provide the funds for the plants. He said he would consider it, but he was waiting to see if he could get funding to re-pave the entire parking lot this year.

Art & Cultural District Plan

Lance said, in light of the Town Theatre vote, there was no report on the plan. He said he was unsure as to the future of the plan.

Poet Laureate

Julie prepared a call out for the next Poet Laureate. Lance said it would be released in the coming days.

Sculpture and Art Tour of Highland

Dawn suggested the selection committee meet in the coming weeks to decide a site for Randy Simko’s winning sculpture. Lance said he would contact Mr. Simko. Julie said a new cycle of state art grants would soon be starting and she would look to see if any were relevant for future projects. Dawn said she would start working on the call for a new mural on Jewett Street, pending completion of an agreement between the Redevelopment Commission and the property owner, where Miles Books is located.

Farmers’ Market Musicians

No report.

Applications for Highland Main Street Board for 2017

Lance asked if there was anyone at the meeting who would like to fill out an application for the board. Mario applied, and Phillip, Mary Wells and Doug Van Ramshorst picked up applications for their consideration.

Highland Main Street Ordinance

Lance said he prepared a draft of all of the proposed changes discussed at the last two previous meetings and forwarded the suggested changes to Town Council President Dan Vassar and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin.

2017 Goals

Lance included a copy of the 2016 Goals and there was a lengthy discussion on a draft set of goals for 2017. Besides review of individual goal items, there was a discussion about trying to create more foot traffic in downtown and finding ways to have events more visible and attractive to motorists traveling through the downtown. Also, possibly holding events where wine and beer could be served, as well as bringing food trucks into downtown, were discussed.

Lance said he would re-draft the goals, per the group discussion. He said that Indiana Main Street wanted a document that was more than just goals, but rather a work plan involving the four-point Main Street objectives of economic vitality, design, organization and promotion. Lance said that the new draft for March will place the various goals in to a work plan format.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.